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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

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RAISIN SALES ARE REPORTED AS INCREASING

Believing that the foundation of success is a clear understanding on the part of the men who own the industry, Ralph P. Merritt, president of the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers of California, has arranged to visit twenty-two raisin-producing communities and report in person to the growers regarding the affairs of the association. He expects to review the work of the last twelve months, explain the new sales policy, describe the reorganized foreign sales agencies, and discuss the costs of conducting the business of the organization and the possibility of decreases in marketing costs. These talks will be illustrated by charts. It is the hope of President Merritt to reach every one of the 16,500 grower-members of the organization.

Rapidly increasing quantities of raisins are being marketed by the association in foreign countries. European sales for the first half of September amounted to 2,760 tons, as compared with 550 tons for the same period a year ago. A total of 39,172 tons of raisins was sold during September, although the goal set for that month was but 32,000. Subsidiary companies for marketing purposes have been set up in England and Canada. These companies are the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers, Ltd., London, and the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers of Canada. The capital stock of both companies is held by the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers' Association, a Delaware corporation, the capital stock of which is held by the Sun-Maid Raisin Growers of California, a membership association in which the raisin growers are the members.

Twelve bakery-service men are visiting the bakeries of the United States and instructing the bakers in the use of raisins in bread, rolls, pies, etc. It is stated by the management of the association that when the work started but 30 pounds of raisins were used to 126 pounds of flour, whereas to-day from 90 to 120 pounds are used. In some of the larger hotels the chefs are using a pound of raisins to a pound of flour in making a quality loaf. It is reported that one of the transcontinental railroads has added Sun-Maid raisin pie to its menus.

CITRUS EXCHANGE MANAGERS HOLD CONFERENCE

A three-days' meeting of managers of local associations affiliated with the Florida Citrus Exchange, was held September 30 to October 2, at Orlando, Fla. Many speakers of note were on the program and the subjects discussed covered a wide range, including fundamental problems, economic and legal questions, and numerous problems of administration, financing, packing, shipping, selling, labor, machinery, and the like.

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COMMISSIONERS OF AGRICULTURE STAND FOR COOPERATIVE METHODS

An appeal to the farmers of the South to help keep prices up by following more orderly processes in marketing their staple crops, was made recently by the commissioners of agriculture of five states. The commissioners of agriculture of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, North Carolina and South Carolina, met in New Orleans on September 29 and discussed their problems. Having given much time to a study of the cotton situation, the commissioners have reached the conclusion that the present price of cotton, around 25¢, is so low as to make production unprofitable, and also that it is lower than the statistical information on supply and consumption warrants. In view of these conditions a statement was issued, giving facts and figures, and urging more organized marketing of the crop.

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SHORT COURSE TO BE GIVEN FOR DIRECTORS

A short course for directors of cooperative associations is to be held at Columbia, S. C., November 6 and 7, under the direction of the National Council of Farmers' Cooperative Associations, Chicago, Ill. Four sessions will be held, divided into lecture and discussion periods, and a faculty of five persons has been engaged. This meeting is planned to cover the cooperative associations in the southeastern states of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and eastern Tennessee. Preparations have been made for about 100 directors and officers. The school will last two days.

A school of this kind which was held at Nashville, Tenn., in April, was so successful that requests were received from other sections for similar service. A third school is to be held at Indianapolis and others are to be organized during the winter.

The aim of these schools is stated to be "to bring the directors together for serious study of the fundamental principles and of the duties and responsibilities of directors. Upon the wisdom and fidelity of the actions of the directors depends the present and future success of this great movement, and all its possibilities of good for American agriculture. This entire movement is so new that the fundamental principles and practices are not taught in schools and colleges, and there are no satisfactory text-books on these subjects."

WOOL POOLS CLOSED EARLY AND SETTLED PROMPTLY

More than 600 new members were added to the Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers, Portland, Ore., during the year, the number at the beginning of the year being 2,075 and at the close, 2,695. A new record for early closing of pools and prompt settlement to members was established. The Willamette Valley pool, with 1,200 members, was closed out three months earlier than last year, and the mohair pool four months earlier. Net price to growers averaged four cents a pound more than that received by nonmembers. Mohair pools brought an average of 60 to 61 cents net to the shippers, while average country prices were 53 to 55 cents. Handling costs of the association this year were two and one-half cents, exclusive of incoming freight.

After due consideration of the question of separate boards of directors for the wool producers of California and Oregon, it was decided to maintain a single board which would include regional representatives.

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MICHIGAN WOOL GROWERS PLEASED WITH FIRST POOL

General satisfaction is expressed by members with the results of the first wool pool of the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Wool Growers' Cooperative Marketing Association. Careful grading and handling, early settlements, and prices averaging well above those offered by local dealers, combined to make the 1924 pool a success. Sales were handled through the established machinery of the Ohio Wool Growers' Association, Columbus, Ohio.

No wool was accepted this year except from members on contract. These contracts are perpetual, running on from year to year unless cancelled by one of the interested parties during February of any year. A fixed handling charge of 2-3/4 cents per pound and freight was announced in advance. Members of the wool growers' association who were not members of the farm bureau were required to pay an extra half cent per pound. Liberal advances were made on delivery.

It is reported that growers who sold their wool through the pool this season received 4.5 cents per pound more than the average price paid by local dealers during the months the pool was in operation. In addition to this direct saving, the wool growers realize that the general price level was raised by the operation of the pool with its careful grading and its business-like methods and settlements. It is stated, "It was a common occurrence for the local dealers to advance their bids 5 cents per pound over night when a farm bureau marketing meeting was held in their locality."

MINNESOTA POTATO MARKETING ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONING

It is reported by the officers of the Minnesota Potato Growers' Exchange, St. Paul, Minn., that the 13,000 mark in membership has been passed and that the 14,000 mark is being approached at the rate of several hundred new members each week. Among the new members are many large growers with from 50 to 100 acres of potatoes each.

Arrangements have been completed by the management to store 5,000 carloads of potatoes in terminal markets, that the stock may be ready for immediate sale as the potatoes are needed to supply demands.

As many as 1,500 cars of potatoes a day were handled by the association in October. It was claimed by the management that the exchange was handling one-tenth of the country's daily shipments.

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EXTENSIVE TRUCK BUSINESS HANDLED COOPERATIVELY

Sales amounting to \$1,540,905 for the year ending September 30, 1924, are reported by the South Carolina Produce Association, Meggetts, S. C. Of this amount the growers received \$1,464,094, or 95%. Measured in terms of money received, potatoes and cabbage were the most important products handled, with beans, tomatoes, lettuce and spinach coming next, followed by peas, cucumbers, turnips, carrots, and a number of other vegetables. The number of minimum cars shipped was 3,634 and the average net amount per car paid to the growers was \$348.

Volume of sales for each of the last six years is reported as follows:

Year	Number of Cars Shipped	Amount of Business
1919	2,508	\$1,197,091
1920	3,120	2,970,593
1921	3,580	1,229,463
1922	3,968	1,641,545
1923	4,291	2,455,736
1924	3,634	1,540,905

This association was organized in 1915 as a cooperative capital stock company. It had about 70 stockholders and handled the products of about 80 other growers to whom a "Certificate of Shipping Privilege" was granted on payment of a small fee. About 75% of the truck grown in Charleston and Colleton counties is handled by this agency. In December, 1923, the membership was reported as 295.

Among the assets of the association is an office building valued at \$37,400, and a packing plant valued at \$4,750.

EARLY DELIVERIES OF COTTON TO LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION

Seven thousand bales of cotton had been delivered to the Louisiana Farm Bureau Cotton Association, Baton Rouge, La., on the first of October, exceeding by 2,000 bales the deliveries on the same date last year. In view of the bearish sentiment in the cotton market it was decided to reduce the initial payments from 15¢ per pound to 12¢. More recent developments, however, may result in action by the directors to change the price again to 15¢.

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GEORGIA COTTON ASSOCIATION CLOSES SECOND YEAR

Net sales of cotton by the Georgia Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association, Atlanta, Ga., for the year ending July 31, 1924, amounted to \$10,248,867. This was an average return on the 34,000,000 pounds of cotton handled of slightly over 30¢ a pound. A total of 70,312 bales of the 1923 crop was received by the association. Deductions from net sales amounted to \$528,593, made up of the items indicated below:

Net sales	\$10,248,867.78
Deductions:	
Interest paid	\$121,374.11
Insurance	39,311.39
Compress and warehouse charges	91,311.39
Other expenses, net	276,596.82
	<u>528,593.71</u>
Members' equity	\$ 9,720,274.07

The members' equity in the cotton sold amounted to 95% of the net sales. From the amount representing the members' equity there was deducted the sum of \$102,489 as an operating reserve credited to the members' accounts.

Up to July 31, there had been distributed to members \$8,372,086, and there was available for distribution \$1,245,698, which was equal to 3.65 cents a pound on the cotton delivered to the association.

The financial history of the 1923 pool, reduced to a per pound basis, is as follows:

	<u>Cents per pound</u>
Net sales (average)	30.05
Deductions	<u>1.55</u>
Members' equity	28.50
Operating reserve	<u>.30</u>
For distribution to members	28.20

On July 31 the association had cash assets amounting to \$1,256,945, which was more than enough to make the final payment on the cotton in the 1923 pool. Its operating reserve was \$177,253.

A CORRECTION

In an item entitled "Cost of Marketing Cotton Cooperatively in North Carolina," in the last issue of Agricultural Cooperation (p. 345), the statement appeared that the direct pool expense for cotton of the 1923-24 crop marketed through the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association was \$4.56. We have since been informed that the amount should have been \$4.64 instead of \$4.56. The figure was quoted from a statement which appeared in the North Carolina Cotton Grower, the official organ of the association.

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HEAVY SHIPMENTS OF TEXAS COTTON COMING TO ASSOCIATION

Cotton is being received by the Texas Farm Bureau Cotton Association, Dallas, Texas, at the rate of 5,000 bales a day. Deliveries were reported on October 10 as far ahead of the same date last year. More than 135,000 bales had been received and it was expected that within ten days the baleage would exceed that of last year.

An exhibit was made by the association at the Texas State Fair, one feature of which was a regulation market quotation board in operation, showing the trend of the cotton market at New York, New Orleans and Liverpool, together with other pertinent information having a direct bearing on the market. Postings were made at frequent intervals. The exhibit was in charge of special field-service workers who were able to explain the organization and operation of the association to interested parties.

Cotton bales, both regular and under high density compression, were displayed, also various types of cotton and samples of various staples. October 16 was a special cooperative marketing day.

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MARKET FOR WISCONSIN TOBACCO REPORTED MORE ACTIVE

Large sales of its holdings of both its 1922 and 1923 tobacco are reported by the Northern Wisconsin Cooperative Tobacco Pool, Inc., Madison, Wis. All of the table rags of the 1923 crop, amounting to a half million pounds, have been sold, as have also all 1923 binders packed by one of the leaf departments. Holdings of two grades of 1922 packed tobacco have been completely closed out and arrangements made for a settlement with members. The distribution will amount to about \$21,000. As advances of 18¢ per pound had been made this payment will bring the net prices to 24.13 cents and 22.12 cents per pound.

EXCHANGE COUNTS ON SELLING THROUGH SUPERIORITY OF PRODUCT

Five local associations make up the membership of the Oregon Walnut Growers' Cooperative Exchange, these locals being at Lebanon, Amity, Salem, Dundee, and Schools. Each of these units produces a carload or more of nuts. The industry is still in its infancy and the question of markets will have to be faced as more trees come into bearing a few years hence, but the exchange is counting upon securing markets through the superiority of its product. Walnuts are sold unbleached, the natural color being relied upon as a badge of distinction. Seventy-five per cent of value is being advanced to locals when the nuts are received.

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NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS TO MEET IN DETROIT

Messages from many distinguished speakers are expected at the eighth annual meeting of the National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation at Detroit, November 14 and 15. Among the speakers listed on the program are the following: Senator Royal S. Copeland, of New York; and Dr. C. W. Larsen, Chief of the new Dairy Bureau of the Department of Agriculture. The situation in New England will be described by Richard Pattee, Managing Director of the New England Milk Producers' Association; John Brandt, President of the Minnesota Cooperative Creameries Association, will tell of the recent developments in his state; C. Bechtelheimer, Secretary of the Iowa Creamery Secretaries and Managers' Association, will give the status of cooperative marketing of Iowa butter; Frank G. Swoboda, General Manager of the Wisconsin Cheese Producers' Federation, will tell how Wisconsin cheese is marketed cooperatively; John D. Miller, who is President of the National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation, and vice-president of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, Inc., will "strike the keynote of the federation's legislative program." He is also expected to "discuss the troubles of dairy farmers with respect to the United States Tariff Commission and its labors." "How the world's greatest dairy cooperative finds markets," is the subject chosen by George W. Slocum, President of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, Inc. Harry Hartke, of the Cooperative Pure Milk Association of Cincinnati, will describe the work of that enterprising organization. Many other speakers are listed.

A special feature of the convention will be a get-together meeting of editors of papers owned by member associations, for the discussion of problems of common interest, particularly those of national character, such as tariff and legislative problems.

The federation is a non-trading body, organized for educational service and protective purposes. Its membership consists of twenty-seven farmers' associations.

CONSUMERS' WHOLESALE HAS LARGE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS

A booklet of 40 pages issued by the Cooperative Wholesale Society of England, outlines briefly "The Growth of the C. W. S." since its beginning in 1863, and gives an idea of the extensive business conducted by this consumers' cooperative society. Among the many and varied interests is a list of the farms and estates in Great Britain "utilized for pastoral and agricultural purposes, including that of fruit growing." The total number of acres of land used for agricultural enterprises is given as 34,645, the nominal original value of which is £2,445,800. This is exclusive of a seed-testing ground of 20 acres, and two timber-growing estates covering 205 acres.

Besides this acreage in Great Britain, the C. W. S., in connection with the Scottish Cooperative Wholesale Society, owns extensive tea plantations in the East. Five groups of plantations in Ceylon total 6,329 acres; four groups in South India comprise 27,169 acres; and one estate in Assam has 2,078 acres, making a grand total of 35,576 acres devoted to tea production.

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NEW MARKETING AGREEMENT FOR POULTRY PRODUCERS

Having nearly completed its first five-year period under a marketing contract, the Poultry Producers of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., is now submitting to the members a revised agreement to "remain in full force and effect until December 31, 1929, and thereafter for successive periods of five years each." Withdrawal on the part of the producers is provided for at the end of any year after the date of execution and as of March 1, 1926, "in the event that the net average weekly pool price of the association for the calendar year of 1925" does not compare favorably with quotations on the Los Angeles Produce Exchange.

Pools are to be weekly and annual. Eggs put into storage and eggs held over from any weekly pool are to be accounted for according to the net wholesale market price in Los Angeles on the day that the pool is closed. Any gains or losses on the eggs carried over from any pool period, either in storage or out of storage, will be the factors in the annual pool.

A deduction of one cent a dozen on all eggs handled by the association is permitted, and when made the growers are to receive credit in capital stock for the amount of the deduction. Producers are required to purchase one share of the capital stock of the organization for each 1,000 hens or major fraction thereof. The agreement includes a plan for the revolving of the capital stock during each five-year period.

The association is made the sole and exclusive agent and attorney-in-fact of the producer, without power of revocation. Liquidated damages for breach of contract are fixed at five cents a dozen eggs.

The agreement becomes effective December 31, 1924, or as soon thereafter as it has been signed by producers owning 500,000 hens and pullets.

HAY ASSOCIATION HAS LARGE MEMBERSHIP

With a membership of 1,215, the Northwest Hay Association, Yakima, Wash., reports resources in excess of liabilities in the sum of \$300,600 on the first of August. The inventory on that date showed a total of 29,267 tons of hay. Growers had been advanced \$201,900 and their equity in the various pools was placed at \$550,000.

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ASSOCIATION MAKES SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF EGGS IN TRANSIT

One million eggs were recently sent from Petaluma, Calif., to New York City, in one shipment, by the Poultry Producers of Central California, whose headquarters are at San Francisco. As this association is endeavoring to deliver its eggs to eastern markets in the best possible condition, this shipment was made for the purpose of studying all the factors contributing to breakage and deterioration in transit. On account of the facilities of the Petaluma plant the eggs were assembled at that point and shipped from there on September 5, arriving in New York on September 13. The eggs filled five railroad cars.

In order to make a detailed and thorough study, five experts accompanied the manager on the trip, eating and sleeping in the caboose of the freight train for the 12 days, while making frequent trips along the tops of the moving cars to take readings of temperature and make other observations. The shipment was described as follows:

The cases of eggs were all carefully marked for identification and they were packed by various methods, stowed in the cars in various manners, and the cars were themselves carried under different icing instructions. Sixty-six different lots of eggs were included in these five cars. Some of the eggs were of the fanciest fresh quality available, and some were storage. Some had been scientifically precooled before shipment, and others were shipped just as they came from the producers. Some steril-sealed eggs were shipped in comparison with others from which the oil had been removed by the new successful dry oil removing process which has been developed by the Poultry Producers of Central California. Some day-old eggs were processed especially for this shipment to determine whether they would carry in better condition than the unprocessed day-old egg. In fact, all grades of eggs, as to size and color, were included.

Special equipment and scientific recording devices were placed in the cases in different locations in the cars, including impact recorders. The thermometers in the cars were electrically connected with the tops of the cars so that the observer with a special device could take the temperature of the eggs at any time he desired.

It will take some time to analyze the information obtained, but it is believed that it will be of great value to the association in the future.

LOCAL ELEVATOR REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL SURPLUS

Total sales of the Farmers' Elevator Company of Delevan, Ill., for the year ending December 31, 1923, amounted to \$288,575. Produce sold included 156,282 bushels of wheat, 48,170 bushels of oats, and 131,334 bushels of corn. Coal handled amounted to 3,826 tons. Profits from the various commodities were as follows:

Wheat.....	\$5,413.88
Corn.....	5,500.30
Oats.....	1,307.69
Coal.....	3,118.74
Merchandise.....	130.37
Rents, etc.	252.50

Expenses for the year were \$11,298; interest amounted to \$518.39; and a depreciation reserve to \$886.25. Funds in the surplus account amounted to \$28,515.92.

The company was organized in 1902 and reorganized in 1915. Its capital stock is \$30,000 of which \$23,700 is paid in. It operates elevators at three stations and handles grain and coal.

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NEW GRAIN MARKETING ASSOCIATION IN MINNESOTA

Printed matter is being circulated in behalf of the Equity Union Marketing Association, an organization which is to be created to take over the property in terminal markets of the Equity Cooperative Exchange, St. Paul, Minn., now in the hands of receivers. It is proposed that unincorporated local associations shall be created at shipping points for the purpose of receiving and forwarding the grain of those who may identify themselves with the movement. The management of each local is to rest in three trustees who will be elected for terms of three years and be the agents and attorneys of those joining the local. The trustees may employ a manager who will receive and forward the grain delivered to the local. One of the requirements for membership in the local is the purchase of one share (par value \$10) of the common stock of the Equity Union Marketing Association, which is to be an overhead coordinating agency for all the locals, and eventually is to own and operate terminal facilities for the handling of grain.

Until such time as the property of the Equity Cooperative Exchange is freed from the present receivership the receivers are to function as the Equity Union Marketing Association, accepting the proceeds from the sale of stock and using them to realize the purposes for which the association and the locals are being created.

OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS WHEAT ASSOCIATIONS COMPLETE SECOND YEAR

Figures for the 1923 pool of the Southwest Wheat Growers Association, Enid, Okla., the sales agency created by the Oklahoma Wheat Growers' Association and the Texas Wheat Growers' Association, became available for analysis during the past month. This report shows that a total of 5,771,277 bushels of grain was handled. Of this amount 4,560,787 bushels came from the members of the Oklahoma association and 1,210,489 bushels from the members of the Texas association. The Oklahoma wheat was received at 192 stations and the Texas wheat at 65 stations.

Gross sales of wheat came to \$6,614,846, and the growers were paid \$4,698,996. The difference between the two amounts, \$1,915,850, represents freight, handling costs, and deductions for reserve, as indicated below:

Wheat sales	\$6,614,846.41
Freight (Less differential to Gulf and railroad claims).	\$1,075,122.28
Local handling charges.	246,515.25
Cost and carrying charges (Less scale inspection)	395,133.66
Operating expenses.	103,639.58
Texas association charge	22,062.16
Reserves.	73,327.27
	<u>1,915,850.20</u>
Paid wheat growers	\$4,698,996.21

Seventy-one per cent of the selling price of the wheat at gulf points was returned to the growers as their compensation for producing the grain. In addition to payment for grain many growers received payment for storing the grain on their farms until the selling agency was ready to market it. The maximum payment for farm storage was six cents a bushel and the total amount paid for farm storage was \$43,183.

As will be noted by reference to the table above, the largest item of expense in the marketing process was freight, which amounted to more than one million dollars. Costs and carrying charges of \$395,000 included terminal storage and handling, \$262,000; interest and discount, \$50,000; inspection and weighing, \$21,400; commission on sales, \$8,900; and insurance, \$4,400.

Operating expenses were made up of many items, among which were: salaries, \$53,600; trustees' per diem and expenses, \$8,600; telephone and telegraph, \$7,400; insurance, \$6,000; and traveling expenses, \$5,400.

For comparative purposes the report of the sales agency gives figures for 1922 and 1923 showing the returns and the costs and deductions per bushel for each year. In the former year 3,179,595 bushels were marketed for the two associations, the gross sales being \$3,900,000.

The returns to the wheat growers on a per-bushel basis were approximately as follows:

	: 1922	: 1923
Gross pool, country points	: \$1.07	: \$.97
Less cost and deductions	: .15	: .14
Paid wheat growers	: .92	: .83

Gross pool at country points represents sales reduced to the basis of No. 1 wheat at destination, plus claims and other revenue, and less freight.

The per bushel cost was slightly less in 1923 than in 1922, as is indicated by the following figures:

	: 1922	: 1923
	: (Cents)	: (Cents)
Costs and carrying charges	: 7.628	: 6.849
Local handling charges	: 4.499	: 4.271
Operating expenses	: 2.205	: 1.797
Advance and reserves	: 1.000	: 1.653
Total	: 15.332	: 14.570

It is stated by the executive auditor who prepared the report that "the association has undoubtedly been quite a factor in maintaining a higher level of prices for both members and nonmembers in Oklahoma and Texas. However, it is doubtful if an orderly marketing program will ever accomplish what is expected of it by its members until such time as the pool is of sufficient volume that market price plus cost of carrying to date of sale is an assured fact."

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SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL HAS FIFTY THOUSAND MEMBERS

"We have received contracts for as much as 40,000 acres a day during the last two weeks," states the chairman of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, who is also president of the Interprovincial Pool Selling Agency. Originally September 3 was set for the last date for receiving membership contracts, but subsequently the pool was re-opened and it will now be left open indefinitely. The membership is now well over 50,000 and more than 7,000,000 acres are signed up.

Two thousand new members have been added to the Manitoba pool since July 1, making the present membership more than 9,000.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION INCREASING IN SASKATCHEWAN

Agricultural cooperative associations in Saskatchewan, Canada, increased from 102 in 1914 to 304 in 1923 according to the recently issued report of the Commissioner of Cooperation and Markets. The number of shareholders increased from 2,850 in 1914 to 16,082 in 1923 and the total sales from \$281,354 in 1914 to \$3,643,501 in 1923. These gains on a percentage basis are 198 per cent for number of associations, 464 per cent for number of shareholders, and 1,194 per cent for total sales.

In the following table are given the figures for the different years:

Year	: Number : : Assns : : Reporting:	: Number of : : Share- : : holders	: Paid-up : : Capital : :	: : : : :	: Total Sales
1914	: 102	: 2,850	: \$ 13,494	: \$ 281,354	
1915	: 173	: 5,537	: 39,421	: 964,892	
1916	: 279	: 9,444	: 92,940	: 2,122,832	
1917	: 304	: 12,459	: 151,805	: 4,160,262	
1918	: 329	: 15,132	: 230,002	: 5,278,166	
1919	: 350	: 18,248	: 362,251	: 6,189,591	
1920	: 337	: 18,894	: 466,009	: 7,314,695	
1921	: 343	: 18,008	: 501,070	: 5,026,822	
1922	: 321	: 16,849	: 504,570	: 4,107,239	
1923	: 304	: 16,082	: 438,557	: 3,643,501	

During the year covered by the report 6 associations were dissolved and the names of 39 were stricken from the register maintained by the Commissioner of Cooperation and Markets. The names of 11 new associations were added. One hundred thirteen associations were incorporated in 1914 under the Agricultural Cooperation Associations Act. Of this number 63, 55 per cent, were still alive and functioning in 1924. It is estimated that the 63 associations sold supplies up to and including 1922 valued at more than \$15,000,000. They shipped 13,372 cars of livestock valued at \$4,090,720 and reported profits exceeding \$400,000.

Associations engaged in the cooperative marketing of livestock increased from 9 in 1914 to 47 in 1923. The value of the livestock sold ranged from \$42,000 in 1914 to \$1,576,000 in 1919. Livestock yards at Moose Jaw and Prince Albert are operated by cooperative associations. At the Moose Jaw Yards 3,638 cars of livestock, about one-half of which were cattle, were handled during the year ending April 30, 1924. The stock sold at the yards at Prince Albert was valued at \$375,700.

Detailed figures regarding the cooperative marketing of livestock is given in the report of the commissioner as follows:

Year	: Number of : : Asso- : : ciations :	Number of : : Cars : : Handled :	Value of : : Livestock :
1914	: 9	: 30	: \$ 42,074
1915	: 10	: 140	: 150,512
1916	: 23	: 241	: 323,171
1917	: 35	: 548	: 1,050,285
1918	: 41	: 689	: 1,558,621
1919	: 52	: 784	: 1,576,083
1920	: 54	: 912	: 1,429,309
1921	: 41	: 564	: 607,876
1922	: 52	: 805	: 749,360
1923	: 47	: 744	: 657,480

The Saskatchewan Cooperative Creameries, Ltd., is the second largest cooperative enterprise in the Province. It was organized in 1917 and began operating in November of that year. It serves 20,000 producers of dairy products. Twenty-eight creameries are in operation and seven public cold storages. Butter to the amount of 4,852,631 pounds was made last year, as compared with 3,715,593 pounds for the preceding year.

During 1923 the creameries association operated a cooperative egg pool which included approximately 58,000 dozen eggs. Ice cream was made at six different points by the association and at Regina, a modern milk plant was conducted which supplied a large percentage of the city's requirements.

The thirteenth general meeting of the Saskatchewan Cooperative Elevator Company, Ltd., was held at Regina in November, 1923. At that time there were 388 locals, 34 having been organized during the preceding year. During the year the company handled, through 352 country elevators, 40,772,991 bushels of grain which with 2,107,434 bushels loaded over the platform and consigned through it, made a total of 42,880,425 bushels as compared with 37,335,000 for the previous year. Over 24,000,000 bushels were handled through the company's public terminal at Port Arthur. Three subsidiary companies aid in the export of grain. One company, created during the year, has New York state incorporation. It handled over 3,000,000 bushels of grain. The Canadian export subsidiary handled over 25,000,000 bushels.

Canadian wool is handled cooperatively through the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers, Ltd. An office and store room was kept open at Regina throughout the year.

Another cooperative enterprise active during 1923 was the Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance Association. This association carried \$24,600,000 insurance on 4,900,000 acres.

Other forms of cooperative activity reported upon by the Commissioner of Cooperation and Markets were egg circles, beef rings, grazing associations and community halls.

RICE ASSOCIATION SUMMARIZES THREE YEARS' WORK

Business amounting to more than nine million dollars has been handled, during three years of operation, by the Arkansas Rice Growers' Cooperative Association, Stuttgart, Ark. A summary of its achievements since organization is presented by the association in a recent number of the Arkansas Rice News for "the thoughtful consideration of the rice growers and business interests of the Arkansas rice belt." During the three seasons the association has received from its members and handled for their account 7,586,655 bushels of rice, the aggregate proceeds from which amounted to \$9,075,889.

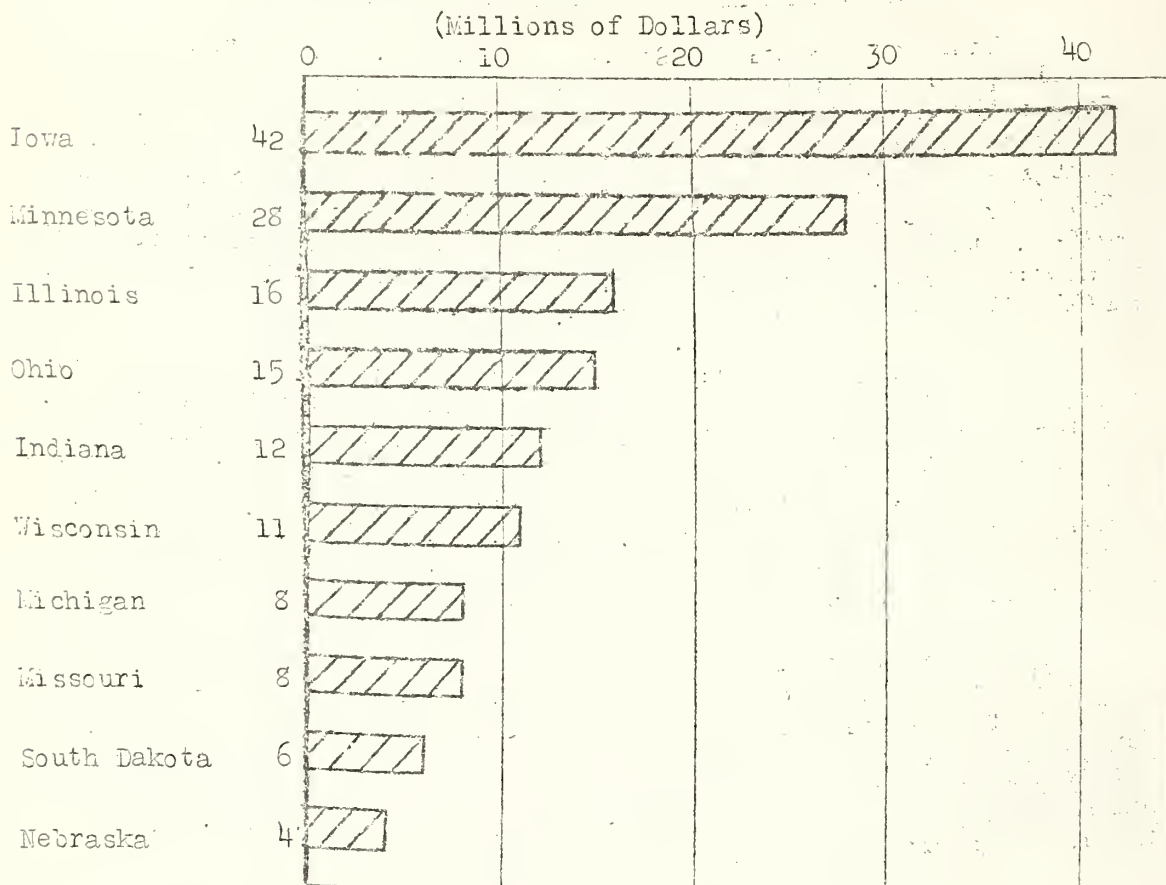
The association points with pride to the favorable average prices it has been able to secure for its members, and also to the large savings in interest charges resulting from bringing outside money into the section each year at lower rates. The first year the association secured for its members the sum of \$1,454,742 from outside sources; the second year, \$1,972,297; and the third year, \$1,208,541. All of this outside money was secured at 6% interest and for the most part replaced 10% money which the farmers had borrowed against their crops.

Attention is called to the facts that the association has brought favorable publicity to the rice belt of Arkansas; that it was the first agency in that section to secure Governmental recognition and Government funds, and that at a time of great business depression; that it has established the credit of the rice farmers of the state; and that it has materially aided in improving the conditions and opportunities of the rice growers who constitute its membership.

Members of the association have been assured by officials of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank at New Orleans that the bank is prepared to make liberal advances to farmers and farmers' cooperative associations on rice, cotton, and other commodities, and that there is no more red tape or difficulty in securing money from this source than from the ordinary commercial bank.

October 15 was the date set for closing the membership books for the 1924 season. Many new members have been added to the list.

An exhibit made by the Arkansas Rice Growers' Cooperative Association at the Tri-State Fair at Memphis, Tenn., in September, depicted a model rice farm in miniature. "Everything from the residence to the drainage and dyke system was shown. The electric pumping station which flooded the farm proved to be one of the highly interesting features. There was rice of five different ages growing in the fields on this farm; work on this part of the exhibit having been in progress ... since last May when the first field of the rice was planted. The rice actually growing in the fields at the time of the fair embraced all stages from the grain just coming up to that which was practically mature rice." This rice exhibit was considered one of the outstanding educational exhibits at the fair.

BUSINESS BY LIVESTOCK SHIPPING ASSOCIATIONS

Last year (1923) the 1,547 livestock shipping associations reporting to the United States Department of Agriculture marketed livestock to the value of \$160,000,000. If to this sum is added the sales by associations not registered with the Department of Agriculture, the grand total becomes \$250,000,000. Over 90% of the total business reported was handled by the shipping associations in ten states, all in the North Central geographic division. As a matter of fact the twelve North Central States furnished approximately 95% of all the business.

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GRAIN ASSOCIATION PLANS TO RESUME OPERATIONS.

Announcement was made recently by the president of the Cooperative Grain Company, Portland, Ore., that "the organization is merely recessed for a year; that it will hold its annual meeting next May and will continue to maintain a live organization for the remaining three years of the contract period. In the meantime the organization will attempt to build sentiment favorable to future operations. The local unit plan of organization is favored when active operations are resumed."